



# CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

## 24-HOUR REPORT

8 JULY 2021

### (U) CALIFORNIA

#### (U) Boyle Heights – Man Attempts to Set Church on Fire, Evades Police

(U) A man who climbed atop a church Wednesday night in Boyle Heights, lit a fire underneath a cross and evaded police by jumping from rooftop to rooftop is in custody. The man appeared to light a fire under one rooftop cross and appeared to kick a second statue to knock it over. A witness at the scene said that earlier the man had removed his clothing and was throwing the items at authorities on the ground. Firefighters were able to ensure that the fire under the rooftop cross was out and that there was no further threat of flames spreading to any other areas of the church.

SOURCE: 7 July 2021, [CBS News](#)

#### (U) Los Angeles – Authorities Seized \$1 Billion Worth of Illegal Cannabis

(U) Authorities said Wednesday that they seized \$1 billion worth of illegal cannabis in the largest eradication effort in Los Angeles County history. Authorities seized 373,000 cannabis plants and 33,480 pounds of harvested flower (marijuana). The Mojave Desert area is where authorities last month launched a massive raid on what they said were illegal cannabis cultivation sites believed to be connected to Mexico-based drug cartels. About 150 illegal cannabis cultivation sites were identified in the Antelope Valley area last year but some 500 were already found this year.

SOURCE: 7 July 2021, [San Diego Union Tribune](#)

#### (U) Sacramento – California Delays Considering Supervised Sites for Drug Use

(U) California lawmakers will wait until next year to continue considering a bill that would give opioid users a place to inject drugs in supervised settings, the bill's author said Tuesday. The measure would allow Oakland, San Francisco, and Los Angeles counties to start programs giving people a place to inject drugs while trained staff are available to help if they suffer accidental overdoses. Currently the sites are illegal in the US, but legal in Canada. The bill would require workers at the centers to try to get users into drug treatment programs or refer them to medical or mental health care or social services programs.

SOURCE: 7 July 2021, [San Diego Union Tribune](#)

### (U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

#### (U) Texas – US Border Patrol Agents Arrest Sex Offenders, MS-13 Gang Members

(U) Rio Grande Valley – Border Patrol agents in the Rio Grande Valley sector picked up MS-13 gang members and convicted sex offenders among groups of illegal immigrants they apprehended coming across the border over the Fourth of July weekend. According to CBP data, there have been 6,918 arrests of "criminal noncitizens" in FY 2021 up until the end of May, with four months still to be recorded in the fiscal year, significantly higher than FY 2020 (2,438 arrests) and FY 2019 (4,269).

SOURCE: 7 July 2021, [Fox News](#)

### (U) NATIONAL

#### (U) District of Columbia – Terrorists Leading Prison Worship Services, Finds DOJ Audit

(U) Washington – Inmates "with a known nexus to international or domestic terrorism" are leading worship services in some federal prisons because of a shortage of approved chaplains, according to a

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Department of Justice inspector general report. The report notes there are only 236 chaplains to serve more than 160,000 federal inmates and that two-thirds of US Bureau of Prison (BOP) facilities are not meeting staffing minimums, forcing some prisons to turn to "alternatives that pose enhanced risks." Of particular concern is when high-risk inmates lead religious services because such inmates can potentially misuse services to encourage violent behavior or radicalize other inmates.

SOURCE: 7 July 2021, [Washington Times](#)

### **(U) District of Columbia – FBI Infiltrates Group Members Who Wanted to Test Bombs, Surveil Capitol, Secede from US**

(U) Washington – The FBI has infiltrated a group in Virginia that after the 6 January riot had members discussing surveilling the US Capitol and investigators closely followed one member's plans to build and test Molotov cocktails, according to recently unsealed court records. The newly disclosed criminal case against Virginia man Fi Duong, who also goes by "Monkey King" and "Jim," according to the court record, arose after Duong interacted with undercover law enforcement officers several times on 6 January and into recent months, when the FBI ultimately gained access to his group in Virginia they surreptitiously accompanied him to an old jail as Duong allegedly pursued bomb-building.

SOURCE: 7 July 2021, [WRCBTU](#)

### **(U) Illinois – 3 Undercover ATF Officers Shot, Wounded**

(U) Chicago – Three undercover law enforcement officers were shot and wounded Wednesday morning while driving onto an expressway on Chicago's South Side, occurring at 5:50 a.m. near the 22nd District police station in the city's Morgan Park neighborhood. The three were in an unmarked undercover vehicle on their way to an assignment when they were shot, according to police. Two of the officers are agents from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and one is a Chicago police officer. Their injuries were not considered life-threatening, and no arrests have been reported.

SOURCE: 7 July 2021, [Associated Press](#)

### **(U) Texas – US Air Force Mostly at Fault in 2017 Texas Church Attack, Judge Says**

(U) Austin – A federal judge has ruled that the US Air Force is sixty-percent responsible for a former serviceman killing more than two dozen people at a Texas church in 2017 because it failed to submit his criminal history into a database, which should have prevented him from purchasing firearms ultimately used for the massacre at First Baptist Church in the small town of Sutherland Springs. Authorities put the official death toll at 26 because one of the 25 people killed was pregnant. The attack remains the worst mass shooting in Texas history.

SOURCE: 7 July 2021, [Associated Press](#)

## **(U) INTERNATIONAL**

### **(U) Australia – Department of Education Struck by Cyber Attack**

(U) Parramatta – The New South Wales Department of Education has on Thursday revealed it fell victim to a cybersecurity attack. In a statement, the department said several its internal systems were deactivated on Wednesday as a precaution. "The timing of this creates considerable challenges for staff as we prepare for the start of Term 3," NSW Education Secretary Georgina Harrison said. "Thankfully, our teams have been able to isolate the issues and we are working to reactivate services as soon as possible." Harrison said the department's priority would be the safety and security of its student and staff data, which she explained was why the precautionary decision was made to take some systems offline as it investigates further.

SOURCE: 7 July 2021, [ZD Net](#)

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### **(U) Iraq – Iraqi Government Calls Militia's Attack on US Base Terrorism**

(U) Al-Baghdadi City – For the third day in a row, US bases are being targeted by militias in Iraq. The latest attack is significant due to the number of rockets and the fact that it caused injuries, unlike earlier incidents. The attack took place around noon local time on 7 July, when 14 rockets hit the Ain al-Asad base and led to at least two injuries, according to coalition spokesperson Colonel Wayne Marotto. The attack was launched from a residential area in Al-Baghdadi city in Anbar governorate. A rocket launcher shot 14 from a small truck carrying dozens of rockets. The rest exploded, damaging nearby homes and a mosque, according to a statement by the Security Media Cell.

SOURCE: 7 July 2021, [Al-Monitor](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-636-2900.**

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